



**workforce**  
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Joint BIA-SWCA Networking Event to Include Construction Workforce Plan Launch**

**Vancouver, Wash. (Sep. 21, 2017)** – The Building Industry Association of Clark County (BIA), Southwest Washington Contractors Association (SWCA) and Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW) are jointly hosting a free networking event that will include the launch of the region's Construction Workforce Plan.

The “Nothing but Networking” event will take place Thursday, October 5 from 4-6 p.m. at the DeWils Design Center at 11014 NE 4th Plain Road in Vancouver.

BIA and SWCA members and other construction and related businesses are invited to attend.

During the event, Workforce Southwest Washington’s Industry Initiatives Manager Melissa Boles will discuss the new “2017-2019 Construction Workforce Plan.”

In the next 10 years, more than 15,000 new construction jobs are expected in the region. One-fifth of the region’s construction workforce is at, or nearing, retirement age and the need for construction workers is intensifying. To help businesses address the growing need for employees, Workforce Southwest Washington and its partners in the Columbia Willamette Workforce Collaborative (CWWC)\*, in conjunction with the construction industry, developed the “2017-2019 Construction Workforce Plan.”

The plan outlines workforce development goals for the construction industry including connecting youth to construction jobs and training opportunities, advancing equity and diversity, and improving retention of existing apprentices and workers.

The event is being sponsored by DeWils.

\*The Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative (CWWC) is comprised of three regional workforce development boards: Workforce Southwest Washington (Washington State: Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties), Worksystems, Inc. (Oregon: Washington and Multnomah counties and the City of Portland) and the Clackamas Workforce Partnership (Oregon: Clackamas County). CWWC is a partnership that delivers a unified approach to workforce development for the region’s major industries, supports economic development and builds a skilled and adaptive workforce to meet the needs of employers in our region.

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**The Building Industry Association of Clark County** is a nonprofit trade association representing the interests of all businesses involved with real estate, land development, homebuilding and construction. Learn more at [www.biaofclarkcounty.org](http://www.biaofclarkcounty.org).



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**Southwest Washington Contractors Association (SWCA)**, located in Vancouver, Washington, has more than 63 years of experience as a resource for commercial construction professionals. It is comprised of general contractors, specialty contractors, engineers, architects and service companies supportive of the construction industry. Learn more at [www.swca.org](http://www.swca.org).

**Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW)**, a nonprofit organization founded in 2002, contributes to regional economic growth by providing investments and resources to improve the skills and education of the workforce in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. WSW-funded programs operated by WorkSource and community-based organizations help businesses find and hire the employees they need and provide people with the skills, education and training to find work or advance in their careers. WSW collaborates with employers, community colleges and universities, labor groups, government and economic development agencies, high schools, nonprofits and community organizations. Learn more at [www.workforcesw.org](http://www.workforcesw.org).